

As owner of a Roof Consulting Firm, I rely heavily on the ability to utilize data for weather and traffic to coordinate the activities of my employees. Standard radio channel outlets in the Tampa St-Petersburg Florida SMSA listening market do not provide me with this level of information as I am traveling in different areas, different states and I can still find out the conditions regardless of where I am, although I cannot get local information from local outlets since there is no practical way to get local broadcasts outside of a given geographic area.

Our company serves and services clients in a 16 state area, based in Dade City, Fl, which is approximately 35 miles North of Tampa. AM radio is next to impossible to pick up on a car radio with any degree of clarity when I am traveling from my home to the office due to the distance from Tampa, and the fact their antennas broadcast southward, vs. north due to population density and demographics favoring the opposite direction.

To not allow the type of service provided by XM Radio defeats the entire purpose of allowing for free speech, free access, and when I am paying for a subscription service I should be unrestricted in what can be provided.

I suspect the real problem is "Big Radio" and "Big Media" is scared of the competition. If not, why would they even bother caring. If there were not such a demand for this information, no one would listen. If Big Media cannot provide this, then subscription service based data should be available without restriction, despite the public airwaves making the local stations and owners responsible for servicing and serving the needs of the local constituency as a Public license, not any monopoly or franchise.

The Media companies often seem to forget their licenses are granted by the FCC, not an entitlement for anyone who wants to spend the funds to build, buy, or operate a radio station. The XM Radio folks are not dependent on the "public airwaves" and do not by law as I understand it have to follow the same rules.

Technology has found a way to surpass the existing fundamental paradigm of how media stations operate. It happened with Satellite Television, it is happening with the entire music industry, and now it is happening to Radio.

One must wonder, why did it even take this long for us to have someone bold enough and forward thinking enough to implement the XM Radio subscription service business model.

It is time to move into the current century, and whether it is accepted now, or later, technology will ultimately replace the current standard media outlet offerings.

Again, if it were not something the public desired, was willing to pay for, and used because of a superior offering of service(s), then there would be no reason for this type service to exist.

In summary, I respectfully urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160.

I also respectfully request my elected representative reject and Oppose HR 4026.

Rich Allen
President RMT Consultants and XM Radio Supporter and Subscriber

In a free-market economy, America has enough controlled

